immediately assumed that he was throwing her out and ran into the street screaming for the Police "to take the children out of here." It is obvious that Mrs. Smith saw in his request an attempt to separate her from her children, something she dreaded more than anything else. The husband would have known this and was either insensitive to his wife's fears or deliberately aroused them.

His apparently innocent suggestion might not have been so innocent. His statement that her getting up in the middle of the night was because she "thought she might be sick before morning" and his suggestion that this was a recurrence of her frequent delusion that she was being poisoned, might all be true, but it also seems intended to suggest that she was mad, to discredit her, and thereby to distract the reader's attention away from other factors which might have accounted for her behaviour.

Subsequently the Clinical Record describes a slow nearly 40 year long physical and emotional decline. By 1927 she is "considerably demented." She now believes that she is a man, and considers herself "a nigger." Perhaps for these reasons, out of conformity to a role she has in mind, she acquires the habit of spitting on the floor, and using coarse language when anyone disturbs her. She bunches up her dress around her crotch on her way to the bathroom, as if she wanted it to be a pair of pants. She suffers from chronic erysipelas.

Yet there are some stranger twists to her case. In the late 40s an attempt is made to trace her husband. A form bearing the heading "Social Service Record Ontario Mental Health Clinic" and dated November 28, 1938, describes how a call was made to someone with the husband's name and who was known to have a son about the same age as Mrs. Smith's. A woman calling herself Mrs. Smith "noticeably froze up as soon as any mention was made of this institution .... Woman definitely seemed to be worried." Subsequently the worker does not scruple to use the information in Mr. Smith's case file to identify his signature. The worker then promises to confront Mr. Smith when he comes for his next voucher.

That anything was done about his bigamy is doubtful. A note i ndicates that a woman came to the Asylum to visit her son, and identified Mrs. Smith as her